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cases from other States, without descending to the collection of "all the cases." They have in addition amplified the text in places, as for example by the insertion of a long note condensing Messrs. Warren and Brandeis's article on Privacy in the HARVARD LAW REVIEW and the "Notes" which the REVIEW has since published supplementary thereto. The important case of *Schuyler v. Curtis*, dealing with rights to privacy, was decided after the publication of the book. By this amplification and the addition of American cases, the treatise has been made a fairly complete one, although its six hundred and fifty-eight closely printed pages scarcely seem to justify the claim of the Preface that it is a "short" one. The noteworthy and praiseworthy feature of the book, on the contrary, is that it treats voluminously — the text occupying an extraordinarily large proportion of the pages as modern law books go — almost every point in the law of equity which one might wish to turn to. Exactly what must be in a bill in equity, and what used to be necessary but now is not, are questions a full and ready answer to which is to be found at once here; in like manner the chapter on Mistake is full and valuable, and throughout the book the experience of the lecturer in explaining everything so fully as to make his hearers' understanding certain has been turned to good account for the benefit of the reader.

R. W. H.

THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF CONTRACT IN THE ROMAN LAW. (Yorke Prize Essay for 1893.) By W. H. Buckler, B. A., LL. B., of Trinity College, Cambridge. London: C. J. Clay & Sons. 1895. pp. vii, 228.

Within the limits of 217 pages the author attempts to outline the history of contract in the Roman law down to the end of the Republic. His work, as he says in the preface, "professes only to be a sketch," and assumes that the reader is "familiar with the ordinary terms and rules of the Roman law." It is, indeed, a very brief summary, and does not go so deeply into the subject but that the average student of the Institutes may read it without difficulty. The first three chapters on the contracts of the regal period and the early Republic are quite well done, giving in narrow compass the results of the best German thought, and also some clever conjectures of the author. The remaining five chapters on the contracts of the later Republic, and especially on those of the *jus gentium* will scarcely be found very attractive or useful. They are full of names, dates, and edictal formulæ. Without attempting to get at Roman conceptions and theories of contract, the writer undertakes an inquiry into the age of each contract and its probable connection with previous institutions. If one would learn whether *societas* was actionable in the time of Plautus, or whether Cicero could have recovered in the *actio commodati*, one may find data for an opinion here. It is good to have these things put together in English, and the student who does not care to read the later chapters continuously will find a good index to guide him to what he seeks.

F. B. W.

THE KING'S PEACE. By F. A. Inderwick, Q. C. London: Swan, Sonnenschein, & Co. Lim. New York: MacMillan & Co. 1895, pp. xxiv, 254.

Whatever a reader might ordinarily expect to find under the title of "The King's Peace," the sub-title in the present case, "A Historical

Sketch of the English Law Courts," leaves him no doubt as to the contents. In this, the latest volume of the "Social England Series," Mr. Inderwick has compressed into 250 pages an account of the origin, development, and modifications of the English courts. For lack of space, he has confined himself to a consideration of the so-called Superior Courts, and of the Chancellor's office. The Ecclesiastical Courts and the high Court of Parliament he leaves one side. The history of the courts, according to the author's statement, falls naturally into five periods of about 200 years each,—the Saxon period, from the time of King Alfred; that of the *Curia Regis*; the period from the division of the Courts in 1265, to the end of the York-Lancastrian wars; then from 1485 to the Restoration; and finally from Charles II.'s reign to the present time. But although particular features are characteristic of each period, these features fade gradually into those of the next, and the continuity of development is never interrupted. Like the law which was administered within their precincts, the very organization and functions of the courts were matter of growth. Custom, not statutes, accounted for the changes that crept in from time to time, even for the absolute discontinuance of certain courts and judicial offices. The change, for example, from the *Curia Regis* of one court to the three courts under Henry III. was accomplished without statutory help. And this development continued with practically no statutory innovation down to the time of the Judicature Acts of twenty years ago.

The book is delightful reading, and the many details and odd bits of information with which the author serves his readers testify to the excellence of his antiquarian researches. It is rather surprising, however, to find him giving full credence to "The Mirror of Justices" (p. 92), for its credibility has since been effectively impeached by Professor Maitland in his introduction to the recent Selden edition of the "Mirror." But Mr. Inderwick is not often at fault in antiquarian matters; and it is proof of the high estimate in which he is held that he has been selected by the Benchers of the Inner Temple to edit their archives,—archives which date from 1506.

E. R. C.

TEXT-BOOK OF THE PATENT LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

By Albert H. Walker, of the Hartford Bar. Third edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis, and Company. 1895. pp. c, 751.

The third edition of this valuable and standard work contains many changes. There has been, however, as much condensation as expansion. Many of the unsettled questions discussed at length in previous editions have become finally and authoritatively adjudicated. In these cases the author has judiciously contented himself with a simple statement of the present law, and omitted all discussion. On the other hand, many new points have arisen in cases decided in the six years which have elapsed since the second edition of the book appeared, and these the author treats in the same ample lucid way which has been characteristic of his work heretofore. No better encomium could be desired than the authority accorded the book by the United States Federal courts. The citations of this work in the opinions of Federal court judges, almost equal the citations of all other English and American Patent Law text-books combined.

E. R. C.